



Discussing NIEM UML Online

Posted by Kshemendra Paul, ISE Program Manager on Friday, January 6, 2012

A successful Information Sharing Environment won't be created behind closed doors by a small group of people. We believe that we must leverage our partners to define the best interoperable, standards-based solutions, and so we greatly value the expertise of the standards, IT, and industry communities. Recently, two excellent discussions on NIEM's [LinkedIn group](#) [1] have caught my attention - [NIEM UML](#) [2] and [Should the NIEM Community leap forward in 2012 to support more than XSD/XML](#) [3].

I am excited to see these great technical discussions about both the [UML profile](#) [4], which our office has championed, and the future of NIEM, which has included interesting comments about abstraction of business and technical models, allowing for the use of other technologies such as [JSON](#) [5], and the state of [NIEM conformance](#) [6].

Some background

In October of 2010, [OMG](#) [7] hosted a [workshop](#) [8] to address the challenges of defining an Information Sharing Environment. One of the action items from that meeting was to create a UML profile that would support [NIEM IEPD](#) [9] development through a standard NIEM UML profile, i.e., provide a UML-specific language for NIEM and IEPD definition within UML tools.

To initiate a standards-setting activity, the OMG process dictates that a requirements document, or Request for Proposals (RFP), is created. Starting in the spring of 2011, PM-ISE, NIEM PMO, and OMG assembled a group of subject matter experts to draft the [NIEM UML RFP](#) [4]. It was accepted by the OMG architecture review board in June 2011. Since then, a diverse submission team that includes members of the NIEM Technical Architecture Committee, NIEM PMO, PM-ISE, OMG, and other valuable partners have been working to finalize a submission to this RFP. The team also includes tool vendors who have signed memorandums of understanding stating that they will implement the UML profile in their toolsets within 12 months of the standard's release. The end result will be an implementable open standard that all tool vendors can use to assist in producing NIEM artifacts (IEPDs).

Valuable online discussions

This kind of open, robust discussion is key to the future of both NIEM and the Information Sharing Environment. I am happy to see NIEM continue to leverage the power of social tools and open government, and I will continue to follow the discussion. Additionally, our office plans to develop a LinkedIn group in the coming weeks ? so please stay tuned.

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[Industry Call to Action: Help Us Develop Technical Standards - An RFP to Develop UML for NIEM](#) [10]

[Standards-Based Innovation: Technical standards support and promote innovation](#) [11]

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[4] <http://gov.omg.org/gov-rfp-niemuml.htm>

[5] <http://www.json.org/>

[6] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NIEM_conformance#Conformance_rules

[7] <http://www.omg.org/>

[8] <http://blog.omg.org/2011/02/index.html>

[9] <http://niem.gov/technical/model-package-description/Pages/iepd-lifecycle.aspx>

[10] <http://ise.gov/blog/ise-bloggers/industry-call-action-help-us-develop-technical-standards-rfp-develop-uml-niem>

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[14] <http://ise.gov/category/free-tags/info-sharing>

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[16] <http://ise.gov/category/free-tags/technical-standards>